

CONVEYER

ANG OPISYAL NA PAHAYAGANG PAMPAMAYANAN NG ISLA NG SEMIRARA

TOMO 2 ISYU 1 AT 2 | ENERO-HUNYO 2020



Sr. Elvira Ibardolosa, SPC, receives PPE donation from SMPC on behalf of Antique Medical Center.



By Ma. Cecil P. Dioquino

SMPC donates P7 million worth of PPE, rapid test kits to Antique hospitals

Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC) had donated P7 million worth of personal protective equipment (PPE) and rapid test kits to 10 hospitals across the province through the Integrated Provincial Health Office (IPHO) of Antique.

The PPE amounting P1.8 million included isolation suits, N95 masks, shoe covers, goggles and face shields, while the 6,138 units of rapid test kits worth more than P5 million will be used for the frontliners.

"The IPHO could now start to conduct the rapid test to frontliners," Antique Governor Rhodora Cadiao told Panay News on May 6.

"We felt the need of helping the province by donating medical supplies and test kits as we fight the COVID-19 pandemic. SMPC is one with our local government units in fulfilling the shared mission of ensuring the safety and well-being of all Antiqueños," said Vicente Cesar Malig, administrative division manager of SMPC.



Mga lider at responders nagsanay sa pagtugon sa mga insidente

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Hanapbuhay na pananahi para sa kababaihan ng Brgy. Semirara

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Tuluy-tuloy na serbisyo hatid ng SMPC sa gitna ng COVID-19 pandemic

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Ang panahong ito ay puno ng pagsubok at ang COVID-19 ay tunay na may malaking epekto sa ating personal, kasama ang mga mahal natin, at propesyunal na buhay. Sino ba ang mag-aakalang sasapitin natin ito sa panahong progresibo na ang teknolohiya at siyensya? Nais kong kumustahin ang bawat isa sa inyo na maging ligtas sa araw-araw nating pamumuhay.

Lagi tayong mag-ingat at manatiling positibo sa gitna ng pandemyang nararanasan natin. Ang mga gawaing dati nating nakasanayan ay magbabago. Ito ay tinatawag na “new normal.” Dapat sa ngayon ay alam na natin ang mga pagbabago, nauunawaan na natin, at higit sa lahat ay tanggap na natin ang mga ito. Kung ‘di mo gagawin ito, marahil ikaw ay maging biktima ng COVID-19.

Ilan lamang ang mga sumusunod sa pagbabagong dapat nating isabuhay sa loob o labas ng pagawaan: madalas at tamang paghugas ng mga kamay; paggamit ng pangtakip sa bibig at ilong; pananatili ng tamang distansya saan ka man naroroon; at pananatili sa bahay kung walang mahalagang dapat gawin sa labas.

Kailangan ang kooperasyon ng bawat isa sa atin. Kailangan magsakripisyo ng bawat isa sa atin. Kailangan manalangin tayo.

Nananalig akong sama-sama nating malalampasan ang COVID-19 pandemic.

Vicente Cesar V. Malig

Editor in Chief/Administrative Division Manager

Kung may aral man tayong dapat matutunan sa panahon ng pandemyang ito, marahil iyon ay ang kahalagahan ng pagdadamay at pagmamalasakit sa isa’t isa.

Sa kabila ng mga nakababahalang balita ukol sa patuloy na pagkalat ng COVID-19 sa buong mundo at ang tumataas na bilang ng mga nasasawi, naririnig din natin ang mga kuwento ng pagbangon at pag-asa na mapagkukunan ng inspirasyon upang patuloy na lumaban at magpakatatag sa krisis na ito.

Tayo man dito sa isla ay nakaranas ng pagsubok dulot ng COVID-19. Ilan sa ating mga kasamahan ay nadapuan ng sakit na nagdulot ng pagkabalisa at pag-aalinlangan sa ilan. Ngunit dahil sa ating pagtutulungan kasama ang ating mga lokal na pamahalaan, regulador at kapwa Semiraranhon, nasiguro natin ang kaligtasan ng lahat at tuluyang napagaling ang ating mga kasama.

Tunay ngang nag-iba ang gawi at pananaw natin sa buhay dahil sa COVID-19. Mas lalo na nating pinag-ibayo ang mga alituntuning pangkaligtasan at higit sa lahat, mas pinahalagahan ang buhay ng bawat isa.

Kaya naman gamitin natin ang ating lakas at sigla upang mas maging kapaki-pakinabang sa ating lipunan. Ngayong “new normal,” mas higit tayong maging makatao, makabayan, at maka-Diyos.



Eng. Ruben P. Lozada

Vice President for Mining Operations at Resident Manager



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



Ang **CONVEYOR** ang opisyal na pahayagang pampamayanan ng isla ng Semirara na tatluhan-buwan na inililimbag ng Semirara Mining and Power Corporation sa pakikipagtulungan sa Department of Energy. Ang punong tanggapan ng SPMC ay sa 2F DMCI Plaza, 2281 Chino Roces Avenue Extension, Makati City, Philippines 1231

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Inaantabayanan ng Barangay Semirara Psychosocial Team, sa pangunguna ni Punong Barangay Catherine Lim (kanan), ang paglabas ng mga pasyenteng gumaling sa COVID-19 mula sa quarantine facility na inilaan ng SMPC.



Nina Catherine Lim, Shelley S. Talastas, Mark C. Munar at Rachelle Ann N. Lauricio

SMPC, LGU-Semirara at Caluya pinaigting ang pagtutulungan kontra COVID-19

Patuloy ang pakikipagtulungan ng Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC) at mga *local government units* (LGUs) ng Barangay Semirara at munisipalidad ng Caluya, Antique sa pagpapaigting ng mga alituntuning pangkaligtasan nang mapigilan ang pagkalat ng COVID-19 sa buong isla.

Sa kasalukuyan, idineklarang COVID-19 *free* ang buong isla matapos gumaling ang anim na kumpirmadong kaso na pawang *asymptomatic* at may *mild symptoms*.

“Nagpapasalamat ako sa ating mga kawaning frontliners maging sa ating mga LGUs na walang humpay na mapagaling ang ating mga kasama at matiyak ang kaligtasan ng bawat isa. Dahil sa ating pagtutulungan, mapagtatagumpayan natin ang krisis na ito,” ani Ruben Lozada, *Vice President for Mining Operations* at Resident Manager.

>>PAHINA 8



Donated PPEs to be distributed to 10 hospitals across the province arrive at Antique Provincial Health Office.



Angel Salazar Memorial General Hospital receives more than 2,000 pcs. of different PPEs from SMPC.

Aim high, Pinay!

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals recognize gender equality as one of the essential factors for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable future. Among the critical aspects in promoting gender equality are women empowerment, redressing the power imbalance, and giving same opportunities to women.

The mining industry is a male-dominated workforce because of the nature of its business. But in Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC), we value the contribution of our women colleagues, some of whom have held crucial positions in the organization.

Likewise, the local government units of Semirara Island and Caluya, Antique have been led by strong-

willed women who heed the call of public service.

Let's hear what they have to say on women empowerment, lessons learned, and how they achieved so much in life.



Maria Cristina C. Gotianun
President and COO

To be a woman among leaders in the energy industry is a rare feat, and I am humbled by the responsibility of leading a dynamic company like SMPC which motivates me to always strive for greatness.

I would say that having the instincts of a mother helps in giving heart to our organization. The heart to uplift the lives of our employees and of the people in communities where we operate; the heart to embrace environmental stewardship; and the heart to serve the nation by ensuring stable energy supply.

Our organization is like a big family, and just like how a mother cares for her family members, I ensure that SMPC provides a safe and nurturing environment to its members. If you help your members reach their fullest potentials, they will deliver best to their duties and will bring pride to the organization.



Kgg. Modesta E. Pionelo
Punong Barangay,
Alegria

Pumasok ako bilang isang public servant dahil sa hangarin kong makatulong sa aking mga kababayan sa kahit ano mang paraan. Sa panahon ngayon, hindi na tinitingnan kung ikaw ay isang babae o lalaki kasi kung nakikita ng tao na ikaw ay may kakayanan na mamuno, sila mismo ang magluluklok sa 'yo bilang lider nila kahit babae ka pa.

Hindi naging balakid ang pagiging isang babae sa pamumuno sa isang barangay at proud ako na tatawagin ako bilang "Ina ng Barangay." Dapat ka lang maging sinsero sa iyong obligasyon, maging bukas sa mga nangangailangan, maging responsable at maging matatag din para maharap ang mga problema na darating.

Because of women's compassion, patience and perseverance, they have been able to attain success in life. Women of today are empowered, self-sufficient, well-aware and financially independent.

When I, a single parent, became a public servant in a geographically-isolated and disadvantaged area with over 16,000 constituents, I always tell myself na "kaya ko ito." My inspiration has always been my father, Reynante J. Lim, Sr., because of his unconditional love and honest service for the people.

My top programs for women would be empowerment through sustainable livelihood; educational support to women, solo parents and affected children; and women's refuge—that they may live free from domestic violence.



Kgg. Catherine Lim
Punong Barangay,
Semirara



Rea C. Domingo
SB Member, Caluya, Antique

Being an elected official is a big responsibility to handle but being a woman is never a hindrance to excel in public service. Sometimes, my fears overtake me when we have to visit other island barangays and we have to travel and experience strong winds and big waves in the sea but it is the determination to lead that drives me to overcome my fear and be a better public servant.

**Rowena A. Hornales***Officer-in-Charge, Materials Control*

As a woman leader, balancing work and family is hard, but if you keep your passion and persevere towards your goal despite significant obstacles and distraction, that itself is already considered a success story. It is also important to learn from failures and trust your capabilities. With what I am right now, I'm very grateful to my SMPC family for trusting me to lead a male-dominated workforce and thankful to my MCD family for giving me the trust and respect as their leader.

**Almar G. Valdemar***Officer-in-Charge, Human Resources*

One of the struggles of being a woman is having equal opportunities at work. Being employed in SMPC, I fortunately experienced a gender-balanced workforce with equitable pay. Being a woman is not a hindrance to get promoted as long as you excel in your performance, know the importance of life stages, and know how to balance time for work and family.

**Daisy R. Potayre***Officer-in-Charge, Humic Acid Plant*

Being a working mom means juggling two responsibilities of fulfilling endless "to-do" lists both at work and at home. To manage time, I prioritize tasks and follow an organized schedule. It is also important to delegate some tasks at work and at home to improve relationships with co-workers and family members, respectively.

**Edna A. Gayondato***Analab Manager*

Nowadays, it is easier for women to get promoted as long as she has the right qualifications, she is fit for the job, confident and smart. I find inspiration in my former boss. She is also a woman, but she is not easily discouraged even in difficult situations. She always finds solution to every problem and always sees the brighter side of life even in the darkest moments.

**Melissa M. Cucueco**
Support Services Group Manager

The challenges of starting a new establishment, creating new markets and establishing new traditions brought me to Semirara Island. I have already experienced being a manager in a male-dominated company in my previous employment so the current challenge is how to motivate the people who work with me, to never forget to touch base with the people I care about and to always live up to the core values of SMPC.

**Rachelle Ann N. Lauricio***Information, Education and Communication Officer*

Being a single parent was one of the daunting challenges I had to face as a woman. Being both a mother and a father have made it more tough to balance work and life responsibilities. But a woman's resilience is an amazing thing. With God's grace, I was able to overcome this test. With the right amount of prayer, belief in one's self and compassion, I am confident that women with the same situation as mine, can overcome any challenges in life.

**Josephine Romero***Quality Assurance Coordinator, DWSSII*

Working with people who are trustworthy and supportive helps me in dealing with obstacles. If lapses or errors happen, I consider them lessons, not failures. There was a time when I feared the future, the unknown. But now, having experienced widowhood, single parent life and a major health condition, my faith has strengthened me and I have moved on from the past, I am thankful for the present.

**Shelley S. Talastas***SMPC Hospital Administrator*

I never imagined I would be working in a mining company but this makes life all the more challenging and exciting. In a male-dominated workplace, I was intimidated at first. But I reminded myself not to overthink and always move forward. I learned not to be emotional but be rational instead. Being strong is not only physiologically but more importantly, as a woman, being emotionally and mentally strong is equally important.



Pangangalaga sa karapatan ng kababaihan

Ni Almar G. Valdemar

Tayo ay mga babae, kaya dapat nating pangalagaan ang ating mga karapatang umangat sa buhay, respetuhin at maging pantay sa pagtingin ng lipunan.

Naisulong noong ika-14 ng Agosto, 2009, ang *Republic Act No. 9710* o ang *Magna Carta for Women*. Ito ay ang pagpigil o pagbibigay ng restriksyon sa mga gawain o pagkilos batay sa kasarian na naglalayon na pahirapan o alisin ang kakayahan ng mga babae na magkamit, tamasahin o magamit ang mga karapatan at kalayaan na ginagawad sa kaniya ng Konstitusyon (politikal, sibil, ekonomiko, kultural na karapatan at iba pa).

Sa SMPC, sinisiguro natin ang pantay at patas na pagtrato pagdating sa trabaho, sweldo, at benepisyo na ibinibigay natin sa ating mga manggagawa, lalaki man o babae maging sa mga miyembro ng *LGBT community*.

Ilan sa mga benepisyo na ibinibigay sa mga babaeng manggagawa ay ang karapatan na maging “*solo parent*,” paglalaan ng *lactating room* sa mga bagong panganak; at

pagbibigay ng *special leaves* na umaabot hanggang dalawang buwan at may karampatang sweldo para sa mga naging empleyado sa loob ng anim hanggang labindalawang buwan.

Ito ay naisasakatuparan kung ang babaeng kawani ay nagkaroon ng operasyon dahil sa *gynecological disorders*, o kahit anong karamdaman na may kaugnayan sa kaniyang *reproductive system*. Ilan sa mga operasyong isinasagawa sa mga sumusunod na bahagi ng katawan ng isang babae ay ang *breast, cervix, fallopian tubes, ovary, uterus, vagina, vulva, pelvic floor, at perineum*.

Samantala, nakasaad sa batas na *Magna Carta for Women* ang mga sumusunod na operasyon na siyang kinakailangan upang gumaling mula sa *gynecological disorders: dilatation and curettage, Hysterectomy, Ovariectomy, Mastectomy*.

Maaaring dumulog sa HR Department ang ating mga kababaihang kawani kung nais nila ng karagdagang impormasyon pagdating sa batas na ito.

Laws protecting women in PH

As the government recognizes the role and influence of women in the Philippines, many laws have been crafted to guarantee their protection and well-being, may it be in work or household.

105-Day Expanded Maternity Leave Law

The Expanded Maternity Leave Law extends the previous 60-day (78 days for caesarian section delivery for women workers in the private sector) paid maternity leave to 105 days. The law also entails an option to extend for an additional 30 days of unpaid leave. Additional 15 days paid maternity leave shall also be granted to female solo parents.

Prohibition on Discrimination Against Women

RA 6725 prohibits discrimination with respect to terms and conditions of employment solely on the basis of sex. Under this law, any employer favoring a male employee over a female in terms of promotion, training opportunities, and other benefits solely on account of sex is considered discrimination.

Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004

RA 9262 recognizes the need to protect the family and its members particularly women and children, from violence and threats to their personal safety and security. Under this law, the state also recognizes the need to protect the family and its members particularly women and children, from violence and threats to their personal safety and security.

Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995

RA 7877 addresses the issue of sexual harassment committed in employment, education or training environment. Sexual favors made as a condition in the employment or granting promotions or privileges; or the refusal to grant the sexual favor results in limiting, segregating or classifying the employee which in any way would discriminate, deprive or diminish employment opportunities or otherwise adversely affect is punishable by law.

The Anti-Rape Law of 1997

RA 8353 states that any person having carnal knowledge of a woman through force, threat, or intimidation or by means of fraudulent machination or grave abuse of authority will be punished.

Depending on the severity of the case, the offense may be punishable reclusion perpetua or life imprisonment. (from Philippine News Agency)



Ni Bernard M. Cadigal

Mga lider at responders nagsanay sa pagtugon sa mga insidente

Muling naisagawa sa isla ng Semirara ang taunang pagsasanay ng *Semirara Island Emergency Action Group* (SIEAG), na pinangunahan ng LGU-Semirara noong ikalawang linggo ng Marso.

Dinaluhan ito ng mga opisyal ng mga barangay ng Semirara, Tinogboc at Alegria, kinatawan ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Caluya, *Philippine National Police* (PNP), *Philippine Coast Guard* (PCG), at ilang piling opisyaes ng Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC).

Magkasabay na isinagawa ang pagsasanay para sa *management teams* at mga *responders*. Ang *management teams* ay kinabibilangan ng mga kapitan, kagawad, opisyaes ng LGU-Caluya at mga opisyaes ng SMPC.

Sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon, sinanay sa *Basic Incident Command System* (BICS) ang *management team*, isang bihirang pagsasanay upang maihanda ang grupo sa pagbuo ng *Incident Command Team* (ICT) na mamamahala sa pagresponde sa anumang sakuna o kalamidad na darating.

Ang sapat na kasanayan sa *incident command system* (ICS) ay lubhang mahalaga upang makabuo ng isang organisasyon na kinabibilangan ng iba't ibang ahensya ng pamahalaan at mga

pribadong grupo na mamamahala sa pagresponde sa panahon ng kalamidad, aksidente o mga sakunang darating sa isla ng Semirara.

Sa pamamagitan ng kasanayan sa ICS, matitiyak ang kaligtasan ng mga *responders*, maisasakatuparan nang maayos ang nabuong plano, at magagamit nang wasto ang mga *resources*.

Ilan sa mga benepisyo ng pagkakaroon ng mahusay na ICS ay agarang maibigay ang mga pangangailangan sa pagtugon sa maliit o malaking insidente, mabilis na makapag-organisa ng grupo, maibigay agad ang mga *admin* at *logistics support* na kinakailangan, magkaroon ng *accountability* ang bawat kasapi ng grupo at maging *cost-effective* ang anumang pagkilos o pagtugon.

Sa ikalawang araw, idinaos naman ang pagsasanay para sa 160 *responders* mula sa tatlong barangay ng isla, mga kawani ng LGU-Caluya, ilang kawani ng SMPC at ilang kinatawan mula SMPC *Housing Associations*.

Nagkaroon ng muling pagsasanay ang mga *responders* sa iba't ibang kasanayan tulad ng *basic first aid*, *emergency medical care and transportation of the sick and injured*, *basic life support*, at *water and search and rescue*.

Upang mapatunayan ang kahandaan at kasanayan ng mga *responders*, isang *rescue and life-saving competition* ang idinaos sa SMPC Sports Complex.

Itinanghal na kampeon ang Barangay Semirara, ikalawang pwesto ang SMPC Team, ikatatlong pwesto ang Barangay Tinogboc, ika-apat na pwesto ang Barangay Alegria, at ika-limang pwesto ang LGU-Caluya.

Sa huling araw ng pagsasanay, nagkaroon naman ng *simulation* para sa *pre-disaster risk assessment* ng *management team* kung saan naging paksa ang paghahanda sa noo'y napipintong *community quarantine* sa Metro Manila at paghahanda ng isla sa pandemyang dulot ng COVID-19.

Ang ika-pitong SIEAG training ay naging matagumpay sa pamamagitan ng mga pangunahing lider: Punong Barangay Catherine Lim ng Semirara, Punong Barangay Modesta E. Pionelo ng Alegria, Punong Barangay Romeo B. Malixi ng Tinogboc, Gng. Noeli G. Lim ng LGU-Caluya, at Vicente Cesar Malig, SMPC *administrative division manager*.

Ang pagsasanay ay ipinadaloy ng 13 tagapagsanay mula sa *Antique Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management* (PDRPMC) sa pangunguna ni G. Broderick G. Train at ni Lt. Col. Norby Escobar ng *Office of Civil Defense Region-6*.



SMPC, LGU-Semirara at Caluya pinaigting ang pagtutulungan kontra COVID-19

MULA PAHINA 3

Paghahanda

Naging maagap sa paghahanda ang SMPC nang simulan nito ang paglulunsad ng *information drive* sa mga eskwelahan at *barangay health workers* (BHWs) noong Enero, na kinapalooban ng pagtuturo ng tamang paghugas ng mga kamay at wastong pag-ubo, at pamamahagi ng mga COVID-19 *prevention posters* mula sa Provincial Health Office (PHO) ng Antique para sa tatlong barangay sa isla.

Noong Pebrero, sumailalim sa pagsasanay ng PHO ang dalawang kawani ng SMPC Hospital para sa tamang pagsusuot, paggamit at paghubad ng angkop na *personal protective equipment* (PPE) kontra COVID-19. Itinuro rin ang pagkolekta ng *sample* o *cold chain* at tamang pamamahala sa mga *samples* mula sa pagkolekta hanggang sa pag-*turnover* sa mga *testing facilities*.

Ibinahagi ang mga natutunan sa training sa mga BHWs ng Alegria, Semirara at Tinogboc. Sinimulan din ang pagbuo sa LGU-Semirara *Barangay Health Emergency Response Team* (BHERT) na unang tutugon sa pandemya.

Binuo naman ang COVID-19 *Inter-*

Agency Task Force (IATF) at SMPC *Incident Management Team* noong Marso kaalinsabay ng pagsasailalim ng buong bansa sa *enhanced community quarantine* (ECQ).

Sa kasagsagan ng ECQ, nag-*monitor* ang BHERT sa parating na mga pasahero sakay ng MV Argo, MV Maria Cristina at Royal Star. Ang mga pasaherong galing sa COVID-19 *hotspots* ay istriktong pinag-*home quarantine* ng 14 na araw.

Naglagay din ng mga *check points* sa mga *borders* at namahagi ng *Home Quarantine Pass* at *Special Quarantine Pass* upang malimitahan ang paglabas ng mga tao. Limang beses din nagpamahagi ng *relief goods* ang LGU-Semirara sa buong *quarantine period*.

“Ang pinakamahirap na parte ng pagiging isang *responsible officer* sa ating IATF ay ang pagsunod sa mabilis na pagbabago ng mga alituntunin ng *national government*. Kailangan talaga ng malalim na *pagre-research* kung paano tayo reresponde upang maprotektahan ang mga Semiraranhon. Malaking tulong na ako ay isang *nurse* at galing sa *medical field*,” ani Punong Barangay Catherine Lim.

Pasilidad

Samantala, naglaan ng pasilidad

ang SMPC na magsisilbing *quarantine facilities* ng mga *probable* at *suspect patients* at mga kumpirmadong kaso sa isla.

Itinakdang pansamantalang pasilidad ang mga silid-aralan sa Divine Word School of Semirara Island, Inc. (DWSSII), Semirara Training Center, Inc., at DWSSII K-12 *school campus*, samantalang ginawang permanenteng pasilidad ang dating Athletes' Village sa Sitio Pinagpala at Workers Barracks.

Sa kabuuan, mayroon itong kapasidad na 397 *steel beds*, 47 *hand washing units*, 50 *shoe baths*, at dalawang *check-up booths*.

Ayon kay Engr. Mark Munar, *Civil Works and Facilities Maintenance OIC* at itinalagang pinuno ng *Logistics, Supply Chain and Facilities Committee*, tinitiyak ng SMPC na may angkop at sapat na pasilidad ang buong isla sa kasagsagan ng *health crisis*, kabilang ang suplay ng pagkain at *medical supplies* pati *vehicle services* para sa mga *frontliners*, pasyente at empleyado.

Kaakibat ng Logistics Team ang Commissary sa pagsiguro ng suplay ng pagkain para sa isa't kalahating buwan, at pagrasyon ng libreng pagkain sa mga *frontliners*, *quarantined employees*, at mga binabantayang pasyente.



Katuwang naman ang Medical Team at Safety Department sa pagtiyak ng suplay ng PPE at *disinfectants*. Ipinahiram din ang ilang *company vehicles* para sa transportasyon ng mga *frontliners* at mga pasyente.

Ayon kay Munar, sa ganitong pandemya na hindi nakikita ang kalaban, marapat na maging prayoridad ng bawat isa ang kaligtasan ng sarili at mga tao sa paligid.

“Pinabilisan ng *management* ng SMPC ang pagsasaayos ng *quarantine facilities* para sa kahandaan ng isla. Bilang isang inhinyero, sinugurado ko at ng aking kasamahan sa Civil Works Department na alinsunod sa *standards* ang mga pasilidad at magiging kumportable ang mga pansamantalang mananatili dito,” ani Munar.

Kumpirmadong kaso

Nailat ang unang kumpirmadong kaso sa isla noong ika-7 ng Abril. Kaya agad na naglunsad ng *contact tracing* at *testing activity* batay sa direktiba ng Kagawaran ng Kalusugan (DOH), sa pangunguna ng SMPC Hospital na siyang nakikipag-ugnayan sa PHO.

“Malaking pasasalamat ko kay Lord dahil hindi naging malubha ang mga kumpirmadong kaso sa isla. Lahat sila ay

gumaling at wala kaming *casualties*,” ani Shelley Talastas, *hospital administrator* ng SMPC Hospital.

“Naglunsad din kami ng *open forum* sa mga *quarantined patients*, upang mabantayan namin ang kanilang kalagayang pisikal at mental at maibsan ang kanilang pag-aalinlangan habang hinihintay ang resulta ng kanilang *lab tests*,” ani Munar.

‘New normal’

Dahil ang SMPC ay itinuturing na *essential company*, patuloy ang operasyon nito sa kasagsagan ng *community quarantine* upang masiguro ang sapat na suplay ng enerhiya sa buong bansa (*basahin sa pahina 16*).

Upang masiguro ang kaligtasan ng mga kawani, nagpatupad ng mga alituntunin ang Kompanya alinsunod sa mga patakaran ng DOH, DOLE at DOE (*basahin sa pahina 15*) gaya ng pagsusuot ng *face mask*, palaging paghuhugas ng kamay at pagpapanatili ng *physical distancing* sa lugar ng paggawa. Patuloy din ang pamamahagi ng impormasyon at mga anunsyo patungkol sa COVID-19 at “*new normal*.”

“Kahit na galing tayo sa iba’t ibang barangay, kasapi man ng SMPC o simpleng mamamayan, naipamalas

Opposite photo: Walang humpay ang mga kasapi ng Barangay Health Emergency Response Team (BHERT) sa pagsubaybay sa mga suspect at probable cases sa Barangay Semirara.

Clockwise from top left: Naghahanda sina Punong Barangay Catherine Lim, Sangguniang Kabataan Chair Mark Liann Eulogio, at mga kasapi ng BHERT at Psychosocial Team sa pagsalubong sa paglabas ng mga kawani ng SMPC sa mabubising screening ng SMPC Incident Management Team; Pansamantalang namahinga ang mga kasapi ng Safety at Emergency Response Team mula sa pagsubaybay sa mga naka-quarantine sa DWSSII; Tulung-tulong ang mga empleyado ng LGU-Semirara sa paghahanda ng mga sako ng bigas na ipamahagi bilang ayuda sa mga mamamayan.

natin ang tulungan, ang pagiging disiplinado, ang pagsasakripisyo para sa ikabubuti ng kapwa at higit sa lahat, may pusong nagkakaisa na tinatawag nating Semiraranhong makabayanihan,” ani Vicente Cesar Malig, *administrative division manager* ng SMPC.



Rio Eden Faith D. Orpilla, R.N.
SMPC Hospital Staff Nurse

Being a frontliner is not easy. Andoon yung takot na baka mahawa ka, iisipin mo yung pamilya mong nag-aalala sa 'yo. Magdadasal ka na lang na sana hindi ka pabayaang Panginoon. Nakakapagod, oo. Pero at the end of the day, mare-realize mo na ang sarap pala sa pakiramdam na nakapagpangiti ka ng tao kasi alam mo sa sarili mo na nakatulong ka kahit sa simpleng paraan. I'm proud to be a Nurse because it has given me the opportunity to help those in need and improve the lives of others.



Engr. Mark C. Munar
Head of Logistics, Supply Chain & Facilities Committee for SMPC
IMT-COVID-19

I realized that in time of pandemic such as this, not only the medical skills are important to help curb the disease. I have seen the significance of having adequate facilities and equipment in order for the medical team to carry out their functions properly, because lacking these essential provisions could be detrimental to the success of overcoming this crisis and could even cost lives.



Engr. Ben S. Lawangon
Safety Supervisor

Tumutulong ako sa pagpunta sa bawat bahay para i-monitor ang pasyente at mag-deliver ng relief goods galing sa BLGU at food packs. Nung nagkaroon ng confirmed cases, nilalayuan kami ng mga tao pag may binibili o kaya pag nag-iigib ng tubig. Nahirapan ako at ang team namin sa Safety dahil hindi rin kami nakakauwi sa aming mga pamilya. Pero ayos lang yun. Naiintindihan ko sila. Ang importante sa 'kin ay naitawid namin itong pagsubok na ito sa SMPC at nakatulong kami sa kapwa namin.



Philip Dela Torre, Safety Aide

Nung ako'y frontliner, gigising ako ng 3:30 am para mag-monitor ng temperature ng mga naka-quarantine. Pagkatapos ay maliligo na ako para kumuha ng pagkain at ma-distribute sa kanila. Hanggang hapon gagawa kami ng mga logistics na trabaho at sa gabi naman ay magdi-disinfect kami. Minsan naiisip ko na bumalik na lang sa Geomos kasi ang hirap maging frontliner, pero naisip ko na sayang naman ang naumpisahan ko at tatapusin ko ito. Masarap sa pakiramdam dahil nakatulong ako at siyempre may suporta ako sa department head at sa mga kasamahan ko.



Kagawad Maritess Delos Santos
Incident Commander,
Brgy. Semirara COVID-19 IATF

Hindi naging mabigat para sa 'kin ang trabaho dahil tulung-tulong kami lalo na ang aming responsible officer na si Kap Kikai. Sabay-sabay kaming kumikilos at nagpapasalamat ako sa suporta ng SMPC dahil sa pakiramdam ko lahat tayo ay accountable. Pantay-pantay tayo. Nalulungkot lang ako na baka yung ibang lugar, walang pagtutulongan ng katulad ng sa atin. 'Pag kalusugan pala ang nakasalalay, lumalabas ang pagmamalasakit natin sa isa't isa.



Marilou Eguiso
Brgy. Semirara Tanod

Nitong kasagsagan ng COVID-19, takot talaga ang naramdaman ko kasi bilang tanod, marami kaming nakakahalubilo. Pinakamahirap na parte ng trabaho namin ay ang paglilista at pagmo-monitor. Masakit sa balikat at minsan inaaway pa kami ng mga tao paminsan. Pero pinapaliwanag namin sa kanila bakit kailangan naming gawin ito. Mahirap pero masaya. Proud akong maging isang frontliner ng Barangay Semirara.



Welissa Carreon
Midwife, Brgy. Semirara

Pagsusuot ng PPE ang pinakamahirap na parte ng trabaho namin sa pagmo-monitor kasi napakainit at hindi komportable sa katawan. Kahit mahirap gagawin namin. Galit ng tao, kami ang sumasambot. Bigla ka na lang maiiyak kasi hindi mo madepensahan ang sarili mo. Pero okay lang kasi ito talaga ang trabaho namin. Happy kami kasi nakapagpa-graduate kami ng mga na-quarantine nang walang problema at COVID-19 free na rin ang community natin.



SMPC employees practice physical distancing as part of implementing "new normal" in the workplace.



By DOE

DOE releases COVID-19 response protocol for the energy sector

TAGUIG CITY - Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi on Friday (22 May) signed the Administrative Order (AO2020-05-0001) providing the Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) Response Protocol for the energy sector.

"It is imperative for the energy industry to observe a strict COVID-19 response protocol. Protecting the occupational health and safety of our employees is central to the unimpeded delivery of energy goods and services. As "backliners" during this pandemic, we must remain healthy to keep providing vital energy to all our frontliners," Secretary Cusi stressed.

The Task Force on Energy Resiliency (TFER) will be implementing the policy, which covers the DOE, its attached agencies, and all energy industry players. TFER will likewise ensure compliance to the issuance through the preparation of relevant checklists, daily monitoring toolkits, and the establishment of a feedback mechanism.

The Protocol's general framework is based on the following key interventions:

1. Prevention - pertains to disease control; or the reduction of disease incidence, prevalence, morbidity, or mortality to a locally acceptable level, resulting from deliberate efforts and continued intervention measures.
2. Detection - pertains to disease surveillance; or the

ongoing systematic collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of outcome-specific data for use in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of public health practice.

3. Isolation - pertains to the separation of ill or infected persons from others, to prevent the spread of infection or contamination.

4. Treatment - medical treatment, or the management and care of a patient for the purpose of combating disease, injury, or disorder. Restriction on activities is not considered treatment, unless the primary purpose of the restriction is to improve a worker's condition through conservative care.

5. Reintegration to the Workforce - allowing employees with clean bills of health to return to the workplace.

6. Adapting to the "New Normal" - pertains to the necessary occupational changes that need to be implemented in the medium term, to ensure the unhampered delivery of energy good and services, while protecting employees in the workplace.

For the DOE and its attached agencies, the COVID-19 Response Protocol shall be incorporated in their respective Public Service Continuity Plans, while energy industry players are required to incorporate the same into their Business Continuity Plans, or their equivalent. *(First published in DOE website on May 26, 2020)*



Inilunsad ng LGU-Semirara sa pakikipagtulungan ng SMPC ang sewing livelihood project para sa mga kababaihan ng Barangay Semirara (Kinuha ang litratong ito bago idineklara ang ECQ).



Ni Rosemarie B. Cabaron

Hanapbuhay na pananahi para sa kababaihan ng Brgy. Semirara

Nagdaos ng pagsasanay sa pananahi ang Social Development Office ng Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC) upang magkaroon ng mga oportunidad na pangkabuhayan ang mga kababaihan sa Barangay Semirara.

Samantala, bumili ang LGU-Semirara, sa pangunguna ni Punong Barangay Catherine Lim, ng anim na *sewing machines* at isang *cutting machine*. Ang Semirara Women's Association (SWA) na kumakatawan sa mga kababaihan sa barangay ang maswerteng benepisyaryo ng proyektong ito.

"Dahil ang mga kababaihan ay may kakayanang itaguyod ang sarili nilang *livelihood projects*, binigyang prayoridad ng barangay ang pagkakaroon ng *sewing livelihood project* para sa kanila. Handog namin ito para sa mga kababaihan sa Barangay Semirara," ani Lim.

Nang simulan ang proyekto noong Oktubre 2019, nakapagbenta na ang organisasyon ng 170 kilo ng basahan na nagkakahalaga ng P47 kada kilo, at 163 *souvenir bags* na may halagang P247 bawat piraso.

Sa proyektong ito, inaasahang ang SWA na ang magsu-suplay sa pangangailangan ng uniporme ng mga empleyado

ng SMPC at mga mag-aaral ng Divine Word School of Semirara Island, Inc. (DWSSII).

Taun-taon, 24,000 pirasong uniporme ang ibinibigay sa mga kawani ng SMPC. Tinatayang 3,000 *disposable rags* naman ang nagagamit ng Kompanya sa operasyon nito.

Humigit-kumulang 1,300 estudyante ng DWSSII ay nangangailangan ng unipormeng pamasok at PE *uniforms*, na kalimitang inaangkat pa mula sa Maynila.

"Malaki ang pasasalamat namin sa LGU-Semirara at sa SMPC kasi nabibigyang atensyon ang mga kababaihan dito sa barangay. Sana lang ay marami pang sumapi sa aming samahan para mas marami ang makinabang. Puhunan mo lang dito ay sipag at tiyaga," ani Teresita Dalwampo, presidente ng SWA.

Bukod dito, layunin din ng SMPC na tulungan ang SWA na magpakilala ng iba pang produkto at manghikayat ng potensyal na mamimili ng kanilang produkto.

"Hangad ng SMPC na mas maraming Semiraranhon mula sa iba't ibang sektor ang magkaroon ng hanapbuhay tungo sa mas asensadong pamumuhay dito sa isla," ani Bernard Cadigal, *Social Development Officer*.



By Justine P. Balbin

Semirara Island joins Earth Hour 2020

Earth Hour is the yearly tradition of saving electricity use for 60 minutes to show support for environment conservation and protection. This is an annual event organized by World Wide Fund (WWF) scheduled usually towards end of March.

It started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia in 2007 and was known before as “The Big Flick.” Since then, this climate change campaign has expanded and now been celebrated by more and more cities as it encouraged individuals, communities and even big businesses to switch off non-essential electric lights to raise awareness on efficient energy consumption and conservation.

This 2020, the Earth hour was held on March 28 at 8:30 pm and was participated by 190 countries including the Philippines. This event is widely advertised on social media and even endorsed by famous personalities advocating for environmental protection. WWF-Philippines even launched a digital event on Facebook to invite everyone to save one hour of electricity and this was well-received by Filipinos.

Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC) agrees with the idea spearheaded by this movement. A poster on the schedule of Earth Hour is circulated among employees to encourage households to participate in the global break of electric lights.

This aimed to raise awareness on the overarching message of the event that everyone can contribute to saving our planet. SMPC switched off lights in the office and housing areas from 08:30 pm to 09:30 pm.

Despite the celebration occurring amidst the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Earth Hour is a success in the Philippines and throughout the globe. Social gatherings were not allowed so several online events were held to invite everyone to spend the evening with the lights off. The topic #EarthHour garnered more than 4.7 billion impressions on social media channels and other platforms from January, and trended across Google search in 37 countries.

The official Earth Hour webpage also launched the “Voice for the planet”, an online petition for people to sign and let world leaders know the call for urgency on political actions to protect our only home. The collected signatures will be presented to nation heads in international forums including the United Nations General Assembly.

Aside from the buzz made online, there are some who found comfort and took advantage of the silence in the hour-long break. The good weather cleared up the night sky and stars were made more visible with the absence of artificial lights. Others grabbed this chance to reconnect with friends and loved ones.

Worldwide abstinence from unnecessary light helped to minimize carbon emission to some extent but this is not the event’s number one objective and it is obviously not enough to protect the environment and combat climate change.

As the Earth Hour Global FAQ page states: “Earth Hour does not purport to be an energy or carbon reduction exercise, it is a symbolic action. Therefore, we do not engage in the measurement of energy/carbon reduction levels for the hour itself. Earth Hour is an initiative to encourage individuals, businesses and governments around the world to take accountability for their ecological footprint and engage in dialogue and resource exchange that provides real solutions to our environmental challenges. Participation in Earth Hour symbolizes a commitment to change beyond the hour”

Initially, the worldwide event’s logo is the number sixty (60) to signify the minutes of solidarity for our planet’s protection but it is changed recently by attaching the plus sign (60+) to connote that we can continue to create ways for environmental conservation even beyond 60 minutes.

Get to know more updates on environmental conservation and protection by following the official Earth Hour page, WWF-Philippines, and SMPC Empowering Others (SMPC official page) on Facebook.





Clockwise from top: VP-Mining Operations and Resident Manager Engr. Ruben P. Lozada reports the rehabilitation of South Panian Area; Attendees pose for a group photo after the First Quarter Town Hall Meeting (photos were taken before the declaration of ECQ); Attendees from Mine Truck and Shovel Operations (MTSO) attend Second Quarter Virtual Town Hall Meeting via remote telecast.



By Francis Louie M. Carandang

SMPC assures employees' safety, well-being amid COVID-19 pandemic

No one shall be left behind.

This was the key message of the Management of Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC) to the employees amidst the COVID-19 pandemic that has caused unprecedented health crisis and socioeconomic impacts locally and abroad.

"Your health is our number 1 priority right now. By observing COVID-19 safety protocols, we will be able to take care of ourselves," SMPC President and Chief Operating Officer Maria Cristina C. Gotianun said during the second quarter town hall meeting (THM) held virtually for the first time on May 29.

She also encouraged everyone to abide by the strict protocols set by the Company to protect the well-being not only of employees and their families but also of community members in Semirara Island.

The Management also assured the job security of its employees within the context of its operations as well as their regular remunerations.

When the national government declared the nationwide community quarantine in March, SMPC responded accordingly to assure the socioeconomic

needs of its employees. Through the Human Resources Department, employees received advanced pay for March 30th and early release of 25% of 13th-month pay, and have continued to enjoy on-time releases of regular pay and benefits.

Compressed work arrangement was implemented for mine site office personnel to limit number of people reporting during the same shift. All employees are also provided with personal protective equipment.

IMS Assurance Head Harold Henry Cabanilla further elaborated SMPC's implementation of "new normal" protocols, such as regular screening prior reporting for work, installation of additional hand wash areas, maintaining of physical distancing in the workplace, mandatory wearing of face masks, and frequent disinfection.

Coordination meetings and other collaborations will also be done via video conferencing and screen sharing while mass gatherings are still prohibited and work-related air travel to mine site is suspended indefinitely.

For the pandemic situationer, Asset Management Engineer JY Lock presented a briefer on the impacts of

COVID-19 to the country's public health and economy.

While some industries had bear the brunt of the pandemic to the extent of closing down of some businesses, energy industries like SMPC have remained operational and are considered essential companies to support the economy by ensuring stable supply of energy.

Attendees of the virtual THM also watched a heartfelt video clip of the "graduation" of some power plant employees from being isolated for over a month, in compliance with the quarantine protocol.

First quarter THM

During the inaugural THM held on March 9 at the SMPC mess hall, Vice President for Human Resources and Organization Development Jojo Tandoc emphasized the importance of integrating the Company's core values to one's duties and responsibilities.

Vice President-Chief Finance Officer Junalina Tabor reported 2019 performance while Vice President for Mining Operations and Resident Manager Engr. Ruben Lozada related the Company's future prospects in mining operations.



Part of the Company's COVID-19 protocols is the daily screening of all employees prior going to workplace to keep in check everyone's health and safety.



By Harold Henry
G. Cabanilla

SMPC sets 'new normal' protocols

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Antique has officially defined “new normal” as “previously unfamiliar or atypical or abnormal situation that has become standard, usual, expected or common place; which, in the case of COVID-19, refers to the human behavior's changes after the crisis has affected and will change their daily lives for most, including limiting person-to-person contact, like handshakes and hugs while maintaining physical distance from others.”

The National Task Force (NTF) Against COVID-19 has provided a simplistic presentation of what the “New Normal” requires, that is the establishment and enforcement of the “Minimum Health Standard” at every step, which requires:

- Safety protocols (“no mask, no entry”; frequent sanitation and hand washing; avoid touching surfaces and face; stricter protocols for higher-risk occupation, industries, and spaces);
- Safe distancing (at least one

meter apart; reconfigure work spaces; markers in public spaces; no work if showing symptoms); and

- Return-to-work protocols for private companies (work from home as a default; on-site as exception; private shuttles required for workers; antibody testing and confirmatory PCR).

Notice that these are to be enforced and adhered to completely and together. The standard is set as a collective criterion to which everyone must adhere to and without compromise.

In the case of SMPC, we are one of the establishments providing essential services (power supply) and goods (energy product). Hence, we have not stopped our operations and had to implement mitigating controls and other measures to protect the safety and general welfare of our workers.

As we move towards the “New Normal”, those measurers have become the new way of living – the “New

Normal”.

As long as we have the threat of COVID-19, we have to maintain living and working the way we do now. Such measures that have been mandated by the Government through DOH, DOLE, DTI, and CSC regulations were put in place and into practice by SMPC long before such mandate has been formalized through SP-IMS-01 “Crisis Management Protocols for COVID-19 Preparedness and Response for Whole SMPC Mine Site” and OCP-IMS-BCP_01 “Mine Operations Business Continuity Plan for COVID-19”.

SP-IMS-02 “COVID-19 Workplace General Occupational Health and Safety Procedure” details how we are implementing the Minimum Health Standard required.

SP-IMS-02 is accessible and available to all employees of SMPC through their respective department document controllers or through the IMS Technical Assistant of the IMS Assurance Department. All SMPC workers are expected to familiarize themselves with the requirements stated in SP-IMS-02.



Ni Mark Louie A. Bentayo

Tuluy-tuloy na serbisyo hatid ng SMPC sa gitna ng COVID-19 pandemic



Ang pandemyang dulot ng COVID-19 ay nag-udyok ng agarang pagkilos mula sa mga gobyerno at mga bansa sa buong mundo na magtakda ng mga kaukulang pamantayan, kasama na ang paghihigpit sa mga mamamayan at sa mga negosyo. Ito ay upang makaiwas na madapuan ng sakit na ito at masagip ang milyun-milyong buhay.

Sa panahong ito, higit pa kaysa sa dati, kailangan natin ang maaasahan at sapat na suplay ng kuryente. Ang patuloy na *lockdown* na ipinatutupad ng pamahalaan ang pangunahing dahilan sa pananatili ng karamihan sa kani-kanilang mga tahanan kung kaya't dagdag din ang kunsumo natin dito.

Dahil sa mga hakbang naman kaakibat ng pinapatupad na *physical distancing* at mga alternatibong *work set-up* gaya ng *work from home scheme* na ginagawa bilang bahagi ng ating "new normal", ang ating kakayahang gampanan ang ating mga trabaho, pakikipag-usap at pakikipag-ugnayan sa mga kaibigan, kapamilya at katrabaho ay nakasalalay din sa mainam na suplay ng elektrisidad.

Ang hindi matatawarang pagsisikap at pagseserbisyo ng mga kawaning medikal sa buong mundo at ng iba pang *frontliners*, karamihan ay nakasalalay din sa kagamitang de-kuryente tulad ng mga *ventilators*, *thermal scanners*, *testing machines*, *computers* at *monitors*. Nagpapatunay lamang ito na napakahalaga ng tuluy-tuloy na suplay ng kuryente upang mabigyan ng pagkakataon ang lahat na lumaban o mapagtagumpayan ang sakit na ito. Kaya't hinikayat ng Department of Energy (DOE) ang pakikipagtulungan

Ang SMPC ay nakikiisa sa layuning ito, dahilan upang ipagpatuloy ng Kompanya ang mining operations at paghahatid ng coal sa mga kliyente nito at iba pang planta ng kuryente kahit nasa gitna ng public health crisis.

at pakikiisa ng lahat ng kompanyang sinasaklawan nito.

Ang SMPC ay nakikiisa sa layuning ito, dahilan upang ipagpatuloy ng Kompanya ang *mining operations* at paghahatid ng coal sa mga kliyente nito at iba pang planta ng kuryente kahit nasa gitna ng *public health crisis*.

Ang mga sariling planta ng Kompanya sa Calaca at ang *in-house plant* nito sa isla ay patuloy rin sa pagseserbisyo upang matugunan ang pangangailangan ng komunidad. Ang gawaing ito ay nagpapaalala sa lahat kung gaano kahalaga ang kontribusyon nito bilang isang *coal mining* at *power generation company* na mapitagang mapagkukunan ng 24/7 na suplay ng coal at kuryente.

Ang coal ang nagsusuplay ng 40% ng elektrisidad sa mundo, at bahagi ito ng *power generation mix* ng nakararaming bansa na bumubuo sa halos 70% ng pandaigdigang populasyon. Sa Pilipinas, humigit-kumulang 30-40% ng ating

kuryente ay galing sa mga *coal-fired power plants*.

Ang paggawa ng kuryente mula rito at pagpapanatili ng tuluy-tuloy na daloy nito ay dumadaan sa maraming teknikal na proseso: mula sa pagmimina, paggatong sa planta, papunta sa mga *distribution networks* na namamahagi ng kuryente papunta sa ating mga tahanan. Kaya bilang isang mahalagang produktong pang-enerhiya, ito ay kabilang sa mga tinukoy ng DOE na isa sa mga kailangang magpatuloy ang suplay at transportasyon sa gitna ng pandemya ng COVID-19 alinsunod at pagtugon na rin sa *Bayanihan to Heal as One Act* (RA No. 11469).

Ang SMPC at mga *sister companies* nito ay nagtatag ng mga maayos na *emergency preparedness protocols* at tumugon nang mabilis sa mga pagbabagong nilikha ng pandemyang ito lalo na sa mga proseso ng pagtanggap at pagkarga ng barko na naaayon sa mga *guidelines* na inilagtag ng gobyerno.

Ang Kompanya ay naghanda ng *business continuity plans* at nakapaghanda para sa mga epekto at kaukulang pagtugon laban sa *virus*. Naglatag ito ng iba't ibang mga hakbang upang maprotektahan ang kalusugan ng bawat manggagawa. Ang pinahusay na mga pamamaraan sa kalinisan, *staggered shifts* at *compressed work week*, pagsuot ng *face masks* at pagpapatupad ng *physical distancing* ay iilan lamang sa mga ito.

Patuloy pa rin ang pagsuong natin sa mga hamon ng pandemyang ito, at asahan ang patuloy na pakikiisa ng SMPC sa laban kontra COVID-19.